

Year 2000 & Reclamation

I. Background

- A. Reclamation, like all government agencies, has computer applications, operating systems, firmware, software and automated controllers which are not Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant. These systems will fail on January 1, 2000, some will fail in 1999.
- B. Examples of non-Y2k compliant systems include:
 - 1. Older PC's (286, 386 and some 486) cannot handle year 2000 dates, their firmware assumes only 1900's and earlier dates. A simple test will determine if the computer is Y2K compliant: set the date to December 31, 1999, at 11:58 PM, shut the computer off, in five minutes or more turn the computer back on, and note the date. Non-Y2K compliant systems will give unpredictable results, often the date is reset to 1984 or 1980.
 - 2. Early models of electronic controllers using year dates, assume a two-digit year. These types of controllers may exist in Dams/Canals operations centers.
 - 3. Most older legacy computer applications, assume a two-digit year. A recent example of an inventory ordering system, requested supplies to last for five years, since the program did not recognize dates beyond 1999, the order was placed for a 105-year supply rather than five.
 - 4. Other examples include programs computing interest in out years, Most of the older programs assume a two-digit year, and when seeing a year less than the starting date, will give unpredictable results.

II. Current Status

- A. A Reclamation coordinator for Y2K activities has been designated, Kent Rosenlof. Each region has an IRM representative working with the coordinator. They are: Marva Booth; PN, David Cavallier; UC, Steve Fisher; LC, Daren Critelli; GP, and Martha Evins; MP. Representatives from specialized automated functions such as telecommunications, Dams/Canals operations, computer systems administration, and database management are also needed.
- B. DOI has established a department-wide coordination team lead by David Brandt.
- C. Reclamation's Y2K problem is expected to be less severe than most DOI agencies due to recent migrations to client/server technology and downsizing impacts. However, Reclamation does have situations requiring resolution.

III. **Immediate Needs & Concerns**

- A. An inventory of non-Y2K compliant systems is urgently needed to scope the magnitude of Reclamation's Y2K problem. Of particular concern, are computer systems outside of IRM control, e.g., in-house developed engineering applications.
- B. Funding of Y2K activities, including conversions, has not been budgeted, however these tasks must be accomplished, there are no alternatives.

IV. **Next two to three Years**

- A. Based on magnitude of the problem, several conversion and replacement efforts will be necessary. In some cases, outside resources such as contractors, will be required. Most smaller conversions can be accomplished in-house.

